

spectrum to again be free with respect to a minimum clear channel assessment threshold at expiry of the time counter;

else if the apparatus senses the spectrum to be clear during the backoff time and if the apparatus senses the spectrum to be clear with respect to the second clear channel assessment threshold after the backoff time during the specified time period, transmit on the spectrum.

**18.** The apparatus according to claim **12**, wherein determining to temporarily use a second clear channel assessment threshold is triggered by a periodic timer.

**19.** The apparatus according to claim **12**, in which a start of the specified time period is synchronized with that of other mobile radio devices in a cell or BSS.

**20.** A computer readable memory tangibly storing computer program code that when executed by at least one processor of an apparatus causes the apparatus to:

select a first clear channel assessment threshold that is higher than a minimum clear channel assessment threshold;

determine to temporarily use a second clear channel assessment threshold that is lower than the first clear channel assessment threshold; and

based on said determining, select the second clear channel assessment threshold for a specified time period.

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